

May  
2009

# Center News

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to our silent auction fundraising event. We raised \$4,371! This is the most successful fundraiser to date.

Additionally, the staff contributed more than 150 hours off the clock to make the evening possible. These hours were either in the planning stage or childcare the night of the event. This totals more than \$1,800 in wages they did not receive. All of this was done as a benefit to the children!

You may be wondering what the funds will be used for, so I have listed a summary of what each classroom has requested. Additionally, we will set aside some money to be used for scholarships to make sure every child who is age-eligible can go to Silverwood this summer.

Shade for the Playground \$2,080.00

Infants: Exersaucer \$ 85.00

Waddlers: Storage wall unit \$ 389.00

Toddlers: Sensory table

\$ 270.00 really does help us as well J  
Jr. Preschool: Science materials,

Puzzles & manipulatives \$ 400.00  
Have a good month!  
Kerri Jo

Preschool: Soft elements for reading

Area \$ 480.00

AM Preschool & Kindergarten:

Cricket dye cut machine \$ 180.00

Cougar Kids: 20 cube storage unit &

Table \$ 450.00

Total \$4,334.00

### Scholastic Book Fair:

Thank you to everyone who bought books at our book fair. Scholastic is so generous. We were able to put \$382.86 worth of books into our classrooms for **FREE!** When you buy books for your child, it



Preschool and Kindergarten graduation will be held Thursday, June 4th at Bishop Place. Watch for details on this fun event!



### Silverwood

Mark your calendars! This year's Silverwood trip will be on Thursday, July 23rd! Hope to see you there!

#### May Events

May 8th Mother's Day dessert

May 25th Center Closed for Memorial Day

#### Upcoming Events

June 12th Summer camp for K-6 begins

July 3rd Center Closed for Independence Day

July 23rd Silverwood trip

CHILDREN CALL IT FUN,  
WE CALL IT LEARNING!

# Building Blocks

# Infants

April in the infant room was full of so many new discoveries and fun moments. We enjoyed the nice weather, hunted for eggs, and met WSU's mascot Butch.

Our classroom welcomed some new faces this month as well. We are so excited to have both Cody and Sunisa in our classroom. We have had a lot of fun getting to know them and have enjoyed all the bright smiles they bring into the classroom. New faces in the room means that we had to say goodbye to others. We loved having Eric in the classroom and he will be missed.

With the weather getting nicer we will try to spend more time outside. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate clothing for this. We will also need parent permission forms for the application of sunscreen. Outside play gives us even more opportuni-

ties to explore and discover.

Over the course of this last month we experienced the fun and learning that comes from sensory play. We finger-painted on canvas, made handprint Easter chicks, played dress up with different textured materials, and moved our bodies to a myriad of musical styles.

One of the highlights of April was water play. We used our large motor skills to splash around in the water and dump and fill our cups. Our sensory development was enhanced as we discovered the water's temperature, consistency, and of course taste. As you can see we had a lot of fun.



Another fun part of the week was Literacy Day. During the Week of the Young Child we had a number of guest readers come into the classroom. We really enjoyed hearing all the different stories. Reading to the infants adds such richness to their cognitive abilities and helps expand their understanding of language.



Don't forget! ☺ An important part of linking home and school comes from the family picture collages. Please bring in a picture collage of the important people in your child's life. If you need help with this or simply don't have the time to put something together, just bring us the photos and we will do the rest. Thanks for all your support in this matter.

Denise, Fiona, Mandy, Ginger & Toni Jo

# Waddlers

The month was also full of learning about spring, gardening, and flowers. We had a blast participating in an Easter egg hunt, scooping and pouring birdseed, and dot painting ladybugs! One of the highlights was making coffee filter butterflies and flowers!

Now, on to May and . . . DINOSAURS! It is going to be so much fun marching into spring and exploring dinosaurs! Our days are going to be filled playing with dinosaurs, digging for fossils, and

painting dinosaurs. And don't forget we're also going to be throwing a little Mother's Day in there! Remember to turn in your survey and get pictures with your child. You'll be glad you did!

A reminder about the weather: now is a good time to go through your child's extra clothes and bring in spring outdoor wear!

We have some sad but happy news. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Martha.

She has done such a fabulous job in our room and she will be missed! Martha gave a much needed sense of stability to the morning shift during the last few months while a permanent replacement was found. Now the happy side. . . Kayla has decided that she would like to become the full-time 9:30-5:30 shift in our room! We are so excited to have Kayla with us all day!

Stephanie, Kayla, Martha, and Anna

# Toddlers

The month of April was filled with fun activities! We were busy going on Easter egg hunts, learning about bunnies, and enjoying the book BROWN BEAR BROWN BEAR. The kids had a great time during the egg hunt at Bishop place. We were also able to dye eggs, which the kids really enjoyed! I hope everyone had a good time at our auction. Congratulations to Alejandra Heredia! She was the winner of our music basket!

May will be a month spent learning about gardening and flowers, and

then we're headed down to the pond, where we will be learning about frogs, ducks, bugs, and beavers. We will talk about how frogs grow from tadpoles, and how beavers build their dams. We will also be celebrating Mother's Day. Keep an eye out for more details about our Mother's Day Social.



We want to welcome Kiara into our class. She has been a wonderful addition and we look forward to getting to know her and her family! We had to say goodbye to Jesse this month. She moved up to the Junior Preschool room. We are going to miss her, but we know she will have lots of fun!



Happy Spring!  
Megan, Aubrey, Arianne, and Jen

# Jr. Preschool

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May is going to be a big month in the Junior Preschool room! First, we need to say Happy Birthday to Sam and Aditya, who both turn three this month! What big boys you are!

This month we say goodbye to Miss Terri as she is moving to Spokane for her husband's pharmacy school. Miss Christina will take over as lead

teacher and Miss Andrea will work the 9:30-5:30 shift all summer!

During the month of May we will learn about Cinco de Mayo, Mommies, Ocean Animals, and Bugs! We plan to start taking field trips to the park and going on walks in the sun-



shine as soon as we can, so please make sure your child has a good pair of walking shoes and sunscreen (and a hat, if you wish) in his/her cubby every day! Have a fabulous May, and we look forward to all of the exciting changes coming our way this month!

Miss Terri, Miss Christina, Miss Andrea, Miss Heather, Miss Bailey

# A.M. Preschool

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Happy May Day! Can you believe this is the last month of A.M. Preschool already? We have a fun filled month planned to end our fabulous school year!

We will continue our garden unit learning about "vegetables & fruits." The class will discuss the types of vegetables and fruits they see around this time of year. We will also learn how



and what they need to grow.

Next, we will celebrate mothers! The children will discuss their relationships with their mothers and generate ways we can show our moms that we love them and appreciate them!

May is Pacific Islander month, so we will learn about a few places in the Pacific Islands such as Hawaii and the Philippines! Hopefully we will get to sample some island food!

Finally, we will end the month with a "my favorite things" week. Every day of the week will represent a "favorite"

subject. Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> will be "My favorite food," and we will have our end of the year party!

Please mark your calendars for the following events: Parent/teacher conferences will be on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Last day of school is Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Preschool graduation (for Preschoolers going into Kindergarten) is June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Love,  
Ms. Jackie & Ms. Brigitta



# Preschool

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April was a very busy month for the preschoolers. We enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt, learned about the life cycle of the butterfly, studies dinosaurs, and completed the month by learning about the different ways we travel.

The week of the young child was a very special week for the children. Literacy is a huge part of our curriculum and it was fun to chart the books we read. April also concluded the Book-It Program, sponsored by Pizza Hut. We read over 500 books in the past two months.

Way to go preschool parents!

We will begin the month of May with a look at moms and how important they are to each one of us. We will crawl into the next couple of weeks by investigating insects. We will survey the small world of insects and look at grasshoppers, ladybugs, and all types of crawly things. We will also have a butterfly release. Watch the white board for time and date.

With the weather warming up we will be spending more time outside.

Please bring your child some sunscreen. Also, we know spring and summer bring out the flip flops and sandals. If your child wears these, please make sure your child has a pair of tennis shoes to change into. Good shoes are important while we play in the bark or take walks around our neighborhood.

Thank you for your continued support as Ms. Juanita recovers. She is slowly getting back on her feet. Have a safe and relaxing Memorial Day holiday.

Ms. Juanita, Miss Jessie, Miss Kim, Miss Kaylynn & Miss Susan

# Kindergarten

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Throughout the month of April we learned about the following themes: Eggs and Chicks, Spring Animals, Earth Day, and Kites! Additionally, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child, where we were able to celebrate each student as well as the teachers! We all had a lot of fun during this week!

Our themes this month include: Bubbles, Plants and Flowers, Space, and Sea Life! We will integrate these fun themes into each of the different parts of our day! This is the last full month of Kindergarten! Can you believe how quickly this year has flown by?!

During the first week of April we concluded our literacy unit on Construction Sites, but due to the science fair projects, we were unable to begin our new literacy unit called At the Zoo! I hope to begin this unit during the first week of May! Throughout this unit we will learn about the jobs, animals, and importance of zoos. This will be a really fun unit!

I have been very impressed with how far each student has come with reading and writing this year! The Zoo Phonics curriculum has really helped students learn the phonetics of each letter. This enables them to accurately and quickly create words and sentences! We will continue to work on our word families and rhymes throughout the year in hopes of better preparing everyone for 1st grade!

Remember parent-teacher conferences are during the first week of May! Please be sure to sign up for a time that works best for you! Thanks again for all of your help! I was so thrilled to see the awesome turnout for the Science Fair. The children worked really hard

on their projects and were very eager to be able to share them with you!

Thanks for all of your support!

## Pip Pops

Mrs. Cann, Miss Jackie, Miss Brigitta

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Throughout the month of April our Author Study was all about Leo Lionni! The students really enjoyed all of his books and the illustrations that went along with the stories! Because Leo Lionni is a five-time Caldecott Winner, we really focused on his illustrations! We even replicated a few of his artistic techniques! Be sure to ask your child which of the Leo Lionni stories was his/her favorite! This month our Author Study will be all about Mem Fox! You may want to go to the library and find books written by Mem Fox and read them together at home!

Our themes this month will be: Bubbles, Plants and Flowers, Space, and Sea Life! If you are willing and have any books or supplemental material that will aid in the learning of these topics, we would love to use them!

This month we were so lucky to earn TWO Precious Stones parties! The students' behavior has been exceptional! I hope that we are able to earn at least one if not two more parties prior to school dismissal!

Thanks again for all of your support!

Mrs. Cann, Miss Ashlee, Mr. Dusty

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## Cougar Kids

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We hope the children were able to come home with exciting stories to share about Wonderland and science projects. Thank you to Devon Anderson, Kelly Sebold, and Dianne & Chris Schlott for coming along on our Wonderland trip. Without these parents this trip wouldn't have been so successful. We would also like to thank all the parents for helping to pay for this trip. We know this field trip will be in your child's memory forever.

With summer approaching and WSU graduation just around the corner there will be some staffing changes in our classroom. We will be sad to see Miss Jessica go as she graduates this spring. We are happy that she will continue to work with children as she is pursuing her career in teaching. Her future students will be lucky to have such a creative and fun teacher. We thank her for touching the lives of everyone in the Cougar Kids program.

As we promised before here are topics to ask your children:

-What is going on with the doll house? -What did the class do for spirit day?

-What is your child's favorite book and why? -When is the etiquette event going to be? -What are the top twenty no-nos of etiquette?

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to be part of your child's life.

Keoki, Torey & Jessica

# Information On H1N1 Virus And Childcare Programs

## What is the H1N1 Flu?

Influenza A causes illness in humans and many animals. Some flu viruses are adapted to pigs and cause respiratory illness in them, so they are called “swine flu” (H1N1). H1N1 flu is not passed from pigs to humans. It is passed from person-to-person. The CDC has determined that the H1N1 flu virus causing mild illness in some states is the same strain as the virus causing an outbreak of respiratory illness among humans in some areas of Mexico.

## Signs and symptoms of H1N1 flu

Human symptoms for this new type of H1N1 flu are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu that happens each year. These include: **fever, cough and soar throat**. In addition, fatigue, lack of appetite, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea have been reported.

## How does H1N1 flu spread?

H1N1 is spread the same way the seasonal flu spreads, mainly from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of people with the flu. It may also be spread by touching something with the flu virus on it then touching the mouth or nose.

## How to avoid getting sick

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against the H1N1 flu. You can take steps to prevent the spread of germs that cause the flu:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away; or cough into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.

## Responding to illness

If you become ill with flu-like symptoms **STAY HOME** and limit contact with others. **Keep sick children home!** It is recommended to self-isolate in your home for 7 days after onset of illness or at least 24 hours after symptoms resolve whichever is longer. If you need to seek medical care, it is better to contact your health care provider by phone before going to

the clinic or hospital. If you are ill and must seek medical care, you should wear a mask to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

## Important steps for Childcare Programs

- Watch for public health warnings about the H1N1 flu, program closings and other recommendations to prevent the spread of the flu.
- Remind parents to **keep sick children home** and enforce the childcare illness policy. Remind staff to stay home when sick as well.
- Report absenteeism greater than 10% for any illness and **any cases of H1N1 to Whitman County Health Department**.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Have parents and staff work with children on steps to prevent the spread of the flu.
- Remind parents to have backup plans for childcare if your program is required to close or if their child is ill.
- Contact Whitman County Health Department if you have any questions or suspect a case of H1N1 flu.
- Check the CDC website to learn new information that relates to childcare programs ([www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu)).

This is a good time to review your emergency preparedness plan. Watch for public health warnings about the flu, school closings and other recommendations to prevent the spread of the flu.

## Parents please remember:

If you or your child are ill contact your health care provider. Early diagnosis and treatment with antiviral medications will help aid in a full recovery.



Whitman County Health Department 509-332-6752 or 509-397-6280